

In The Claims:

1. A method for formatting and coding content for storage and delivery, comprising:
  - receiving a coding and formatting request;
  - analyzing parameters contained in the coding and formatting request;
  - configuring a formatting codec using the analyzed parameters;
  - decoding, formatting, and coding target content using the configured formatting codec, whereby coded target output content is produced; and
  - routing the coded target output content to one or more target addresses.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - processing auxiliary services, comprising:
    - analyzing auxiliary services processing requests in the coding and formatting request,
    - configuring one or more auxiliary services processes to generate requested auxiliary services, and
    - outputting the requested auxiliary services, wherein the outputted auxiliary services are combined with the coded target output content.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising parsing the requested auxiliary services and time code data.
4. The method of claim 3, further comprising synchronizing auxiliary service time code data and content time code data.
5. The method of claim 2, wherein the auxiliary services comprise one or more of closed captioning, descriptive video narration, alternative language audio, content rating, critical review information, device control and commands, future content schedules, advertising, targeted advertising, text and data services, interactive services, and content metadata.
6. The method of claim 2, wherein auxiliary services are combined with requested source content, further comprising:
  - separating the auxiliary services from the requested source content;

1 processing the separated auxiliary services; and

2 combining selected separated auxiliary services with the coded target output content.

3 7. The method of claim 2, wherein the requested auxiliary services are separate from the  
4 requested content.

5 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising polling formatting and coding resources,  
6 wherein available formatting and coding resources are identified.

7 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

8 reading target content routing address information; and

9 configuring one or more target content routers based on the address information.

10 10. An apparatus that decodes, formats, and codes content for storage and delivery,  
11 comprising:

12 means for receiving a coding and formatting request;

13 means for analyzing parameters contained in the coding and formatting request;

14 means for decoding, formatting and coding target content;

15 means for configuring the means for decoding, formatting and coding target content;

16 and

17 means for routing coded target output content to one or more target addresses.

18 11. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising means for processing auxiliary  
19 services, comprising:

20 means for analyzing auxiliary service requests in the coding and formatting request;

21 means for configuring one or more auxiliary services processing means to supply the  
22 requested auxiliary services; and

23 means for outputting the requested auxiliary services, whereby the outputted auxiliary  
24 services are combined with the coded target output content.

25 12. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for parsing auxiliary services  
26 and auxiliary service time code data.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising means for synchronizing the auxiliary  
2 service time code data and content time code data.

3 14. The apparatus of claim 11, whereby auxiliary services are combined with requested  
4 source content, further comprising:

5 means for separating the auxiliary services from the requested source content;

6 means for processing the separated auxiliary service; and

7 means for combining selected separated auxiliary services with the coded target  
8 output content.

9 15. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the requested auxiliary services are separate from  
10 the requested content, further comprising:

11 means for formatting and coding the requested auxiliary services; and

12 means for combining the requested formatted and coded auxiliary services and the  
13 coded target output content.

14 16. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the auxiliary services comprise one or more of  
15 closed captioning, descriptive video narration, alternative language audio, content rating,  
16 critical review information, device control and commands, future content schedules,  
17 advertising, targeted advertising, text and data services, interactive services, and content  
18 metadata.

19 17. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising means for polling formatting and  
20 coding means, wherein available formatting and coding means are identified.

21 18. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising means for ready target content routing  
22 address information.

23 19. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising means for configuring one or more  
24 means for routing target content based on the address information.

25 20. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the parameter contained in the coding and  
26 formatting request comprise one or more of a physical address, a logical address, coding  
27 parameters, compression parameters, format description, content size, description of  
28 auxiliary services, and metadata elements.

- 1 21. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising means for applying forward error  
2 correction coding to target output content.
- 3 22. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the target addresses include one or more of an  
4 aggregator local storage and a user terminal.